

**EOD** MAY 13 1998

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BEAUMONT DIVISION

FILED-CLERK  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

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IN RE NORPLANT CONTRACEPTIVE  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

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§  
§

MDL No. 1038 EASTERN-BEAUMONT

BY

*Beverly Aubrey*

ORDER RESCINDING PRIOR ORDERS  
LIMITING COMMUNICATION WITH THE MEDIA

The court enters this Order, *sua sponte*, for the purpose of RESCINDING its prior orders of November 12, 1996, and March 4, 1997, limiting communication with the media. The court is of the opinion that these orders, which were originally instituted for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the bellwether trials in the Norplant Contraceptive Products Liability Litigation, have outlived their usefulness. The court's summary judgment in favor of the defendants in the first of three bellwether trials is now on appeal to the Fifth Circuit, and the date for scheduling future bellwether trials is uncertain. The court is not inclined to hold hearings on motions seeking to enforce its media restrictions in relation to state court cases held across the nation. Whether or not to impose such media restrictions in connection with those cases is an issue for the respective state court judges. As a result, the court ORDERS that its prior Orders of November 12, 1996, and March 4, 1997, are hereby RESCINDED.

SIGNED this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1998.

*Richard A. Schell*  
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RICHARD A. SCHELL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE